

continued to advance the commercial, industrial, and civic interests for the people of Patton Township.

I have had the privilege of working closely with David and the Patton Township Business Association as they advocated on behalf of small businesses in Patton Township and the Centre County region.

I thank David for his years of leadership and service to the organization, Patton Township, and Centre County. His contributions cannot be overstated, and his legacy will be remembered for years to come.

#### UNDENIABLE CRISIS AT OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. VALADAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, what we are seeing at our southern border is an undeniable crisis. An unthinkable amount of fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances are coming across our border. There is enough fentanyl coming across our border to kill every American seven times over. Think about that.

This only exacerbates our existing drug problem in the United States, like the rising use of meth in the Central Valley of California.

In October, U.S. Customs and Border Protection apprehended over 160,000 illegal immigrants attempting to cross our southern border, the highest number of apprehensions for October on record.

I have always been supportive of immigration. After all, I am the son of immigrants. But we have to respect and enforce our laws. By refusing to enforce immigration laws, this administration is sending a dangerous message that our border is open for business to cartels and encourages people to put themselves in harm's way to cross our border.

#### FENTANYL CRISIS

(Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the unimaginable amount of dangerous fentanyl and related substances that are crossing our southern border, enough to kill every American seven times over.

Criminal drug cartels are capitalizing on the lack of security due to Biden's open-border policies. Since these large amounts of fentanyl are flooding in, the DEA issued its first public safety alert in 6 years, warning the public about fake pills laced with lethal doses of fentanyl, and we are seeing the devastating effects.

Synthetic opioids, primarily fentanyl, account for nearly two-thirds of the overdose deaths, including

American teenagers. Many parents across our country, and including my home State of Oklahoma, have tragically lost their children to accidental fentanyl overdoses. No one should ever have to experience that sort of pain.

In February, we have the chance to respond. The emergency class-wide scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances is set to expire. Democrats want to enact only temporary extensions, while Republicans are fighting to make it permanent.

Madam Speaker, there are deadly consequences to the lack of security at the border. We must ensure law enforcement has the resources to protect our country and keep those drugs out of American hands.

#### CRISIS ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. MEUSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is no surprise to anyone here or throughout the United States that we have a serious crisis at our southern border. All anyone has to do is go visit the southern border to see the devastation, to see the death, to see the desperation, to see the drugs coming across, Madam Speaker.

Since President Biden has come into office, a record number, over 2 million illegal immigrants, have been apprehended: a 128 percent increase in apprehensions from the previous year.

And 1.7 million migrants were apprehended illegally just this year, while 400,000 illegally crossed the border and got away.

But the President and his administration halted the Trump administration's successful remain in Mexico policy, has reinstated catch-and-release, has refused to enforce title 42, and is providing incentives for illegals to come into our country through mass amnesty proposals, work visas, and driver's licenses. Okay?

This is a serious matter for every State, for my constituents, for my district. We have the highest level of overdose fatalities ever, and it is a direct result of the Biden administration policy. This needs to stop. This is a terrible situation caused by the Biden administration. I wish it would stop. We could stop it here.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RALPH OWENS

(Mr. CLYDE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of an honorable public servant, Mr. Ralph Owens, of Lavonia, Georgia.

As a lifetime member of the Franklin County community, Ralph humbly answered the call to public service and played a critical role in the city of

Lavonia's success. In 1987, Mr. Owens was first elected to the Lavonia City Council. Just two short years later, he became the mayor of Lavonia, where he dutifully served his local community for over three decades.

During his lifetime as a public official, Mayor Owens' leadership ushered in impressive industrial and economic growth to the city. From dramatically improving the city's police department, to bringing new businesses to the community, Ralph was a dedicated servant to the great people of Lavonia.

I am deeply saddened by the loss of such an accomplished individual that led with his servant's heart to truly make a positive difference in his community. Georgia's Ninth District will always remember Mayor Ralph Owens and his profound impact on the city of Lavonia and both Franklin and Hart Counties in northeast Georgia.

#### CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH RAFF

(Mr. SMUCKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate Mrs. Elizabeth Raff of Lancaster County, who was recently named Pennsylvania's Teacher of the Year for 2022.

Elizabeth teaches sixth grade at Pequea Elementary School, in the Penn Manor School District in Lancaster County, where she has taught since 2014. Penn Manor School District Superintendent, Dr. Mike Leichter, described Elizabeth as a "dynamic and creative teacher who is always looking to find new ways to reach her students" and noted that "she creates a space where students are encouraged to explore ideas in a supportive and respectful environment."

There is no question that teachers and students have been impacted; they have had challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic over the last 2 years, and we thank our teachers for all they have done to make sure that our students are receiving the best education possible.

That is certainly true of Mrs. Raff, whose classroom is well-decorated and offers students access to a large library of books to pique their interest, and a raised stage to provide students the opportunity to present to their classmates.

Thank you to Mrs. Raff for all you have done to educate students in our community. We all appreciate your efforts and wish to congratulate you on being named Pennsylvania's 2022 Teacher of the Year.

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#### PROTECTING OUR DEMOCRACY ACT

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 838, I call up the bill